unviable due to sharp increase in the prices of raw materials. Government of India keeping in view the increase in prices of raw materials, decided to increase the *ad-hoc* subsidy on SSP from Rs. 650 per MT to Rs. 975 per MT w.e.f. 1.9.2005. The annual subsidy bill of SSP will increase to Rs. 250 crore approximately, with increase in the *ad-hoc* subsidy rate.

Sugar production

†2618. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the quantity of sugar production in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated production of sugar in the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively;

(c) the stock of sugar in the country during the month of October, 2005 and the expected stock in the month of October, 2006; and

(d) the quantity of sugar consumption in the country during the month of October, 2005 and the expected consumption during the month of October, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the reports received from State Governments/ Sugar mills, the sugar production during the current 2005-06 season is estimated at 180 lakh M.Ts. However, while it is too early to estimate, with normal monsoon and increase in area under cultivation, the sugar production for 2006-2007 sugar season, may be good.

(c) As per the Central Excise verified stocks, the closing stock of sugar as on 1st October, 2005 was 62 lakh M.Ts. (Provisional). After taking into the account the closing stock as on 1st October, 2005, the estimated sugar production and the internal consumption, the stock as on October, 2006 is estimated to be around 52-57 lakh M.Ts.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The total quantity of sugar released for the purpose of consumption in the country during October, 2005 was 16.00 lakh M.Ts. and it is presumed that in month of October, 2006, the level of consumption would be more or less the same.

Price of sugar

†2619. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been assessed that ex-factory price of sugar will be Rs. 17.50 to Rs. 18.50 per kg. in 2006-07 in the country and its sale price for the common people will be around Rs.21.00 per kg.;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it has also been assessed that the production of sugar in 2006-07 would be much higher in comparison to that in 2005-06;

(d) if so, whether the selling price of the sugar to the consumers would be less in comparison to that in the last year; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) It is too early to predict the level of sugar production for the next sugar season 2006-07 and/or its likely impact on the open market prices of sugar.

Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Policy

2620. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/draft for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.